IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant

Haviv Toledano

Serial Nº: XX/XXX,XXX

Filed:

/ /2001

For: A FLEXIBLE ANNULAR STAPLER

FOR CLOSED SURGERY OF HOLLOW

ORGANS

Examiner:

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington. D.C. 20231

Group Art Unit

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir,

Prior to examination of the above identified application, please amend the above identified application as follows:

In the claims:

- i) Please cancel claims 1-9 and 17.
- ii) Please cancel claims 10-16 and 18-22.
- iii) Please cancel claims 25-26 and 30.
- iv) Please note that claim 23 was amended in response to the written opinion mailed 21 Apr.
- 98. as follows:
 - 23. (Amended) A method for joining two parts of hollow organs over an annular area defined on a plane in each of the two parts, whereby each part has an opening through the respective plane essentially inside the respective annular area, under conditions of closed surgery performed on a patient, the method sequentially comprising the steps of-
 - a) providing a flexible annular stapler having two round jaws;
 - b) inserting said jaws into a first one of the two parts and advancing said jaws to where one jaw is inside the first part and the other jaw is inside the second one of the two parts, each jaw being substantially near the respective plane;